

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
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USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
CINCUSNAVEUR
JCS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1904

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: MARITIME EXERCISE INFORMATION GROUP (MEIG)

REF: (A) USNATO 0308 (DTG 191903Z JAN 77)

(B) USNATO 0582 (DTG 021735Z FEB 77)

(C) STATE 057394 (DTG 152018Z MAR 77)

AT OUR REQUEST, SSYG MUMFORD HELD A MEETING OF THE
MEIG CAUCUS GROUP ON FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1977. US REP (BADER)
SAID THAT BEFORE THE DRAFT PO WAS RELEASED, HE THOUGHT IT
NECESSARY FOR THE GROUP TO BE ASSURED THAT THE PO WAS
ACCEPTABLE TO THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES (I.E. CINCHAN),
PARTICULARLY THE QUESTION OF CHAIARMSHIP.

THE UK REP (PETERS) NOTED THAT THE PHRASE "CHAINED
BY ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING NATIONS" WAS A POINT OF SOME
CONTENTION BUT THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY OBJECTION BY
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CINCHAN.
THE DANISH REP (BELLING) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES
HAD ONLY RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO SUPPORT THE MEIG ON THE
BASIS OF THE METICULOUSLY WORDED DRAFT PO WHICH IS NOW IN
THE SYG'S OFFICE. HE SAID THAT DESIGNATION OF A CINCHAN
REPRESENTATIVE AS MEIG CHAIRMAN WOULD CONTRADICT THE AGREED
PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH SAYS, IN PART, THAT MEIG ACTIVITIES
"WILL NOT BE CARRIED OUT ON BEHALF OF NATO". HE SAID IT
WOULD BE "EXTREMELY DIFFICULT" TO OBTAIN APPROVAL BY HIS
AUTHORITIES ON A CHANGE INVOLVING ANY POINT OF SUBSTANCE.

SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE FAIR TO ASSUME THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT ASSENT TO ANY MODIFICATION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP ARRANGEMENTS.

THE NORWEGIAN REP (HEIDENSTROM) STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE DANISH REP'S REMAKRS.

MUMFORD REPORTED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE NETHERLANDS REP (WYNNAENDTS) TO SAY THAT THE NETHERLANDS ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE DANISH POSITION.

THE FRG (WELZ) AND PORTUGUESE (CATARINO) REPS SUPPORTED THE PO AS WRITTEN.

THE IMS REP (TELLING) SQID THAT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE THOUGHT THE MILITARY COULD TRY THE MEIG CONCEPT AS ENVISIONED IN THE DRAFT PO.

MUMFORD SUMMED UP THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT -- BASED ON THE POSITIONS ON DENMARK, NORWAY AND THE NETHERLANDS --IT WAS CLEARLY IMPOLITIC TO TRY TO CHANGE THE TEXT. HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES WERE SUFFICIENTLY AWARE OF THE POLITICAL REASLITIES SURROUNDING THIS ISSUE TO UNDERSTAND THAT INSISTENCE ON CINCHAN CHAIRMANSHIP WOULD PRECLUDE DPC APPROVAL. HE SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO TALK TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, IF THAT WOULD HELP, AND THEN CONTACT THE US REP.

THE US REP OBTAINED MUMFORD'S ASSURANCE THAT THE PO WOULD BE HELD UP UNTIL THE MATTER WAS SETTLED.

COMMENT: WE EXPECT TO HEAR BACK FROM MUMFORD EARLY NEXT WEEK AFTER HE CHECKS WITH SIR PETER HILL-NORTON. WHAT
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MUMFORD THEN HEARS MAY ONLY BE SIR PETER'S PERSONAL VIEW, AND IT MAY STILL BE NECESSARY TO LET THE PO GO FORWARD IN ORDER TO GET THE FORMAL NMA POSITION. END COMMENT. STRAUSZ-HUPE'

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